

I hope future Presidents will use the waiver provision only as President Clinton will use other provisions of the current bill: to aid victims of terrorism and make its state sponsors pay for their crimes.

Mr. MACK. I thank Senator LAUTENBERG for making a point with which I strongly agree: the waiver authority in this legislation is intended to be used on each case or for each asset, but not to be used as a de-facto veto.

In drafting this language and negotiating with the administration over the past several months, we believe firmly that using blocked assets of terrorist states to satisfy judgments is completely consistent with the intent of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996, and more significantly, is consistent with our national security interest. Simply stated, making the terrorists who harm or kill Americans in acts of international terrorism pay for their acts makes for good policy. It should deter future acts of terrorism, as well as provide some small measure of justice to current victims.

Mr. KYL. I thank Senators MACK and LAUTENBERG for their leadership on this issue. I would like to add that from the beginning of my involvement on this issue in 1998, I have sought to help Senator MACK provide a mechanism which would not only help current victims, but also set in place a procedure to ensure future victims will be able to attain justice, provided blocked assets are held in the U.S. I would therefore first like to associate myself with the interpretation of the waiver as expressed by Senators LAUTENBERG and MACK. I do not appreciate seeing laws in effect vetoed through a waiver authority interpreted overly broadly. Indeed, the waiver used in this language should be exercised on a case-by-case basis only.

Second, I would also like to point out the precedent being set and the reaffirmation of authority. The administration assures us via a private letter that the judgment creditors already holding final judgment will be paid their compensatory awards within 60 days of the enactment of this act. The administration will do so using executive authority to vest and pay from blocked assets. In addition, the Congress statutorily reaffirms the President's authority to vest and pay from blocked assets in the future to help future victims of terrorism. Let me state very clearly that there is no way, based upon the procedure now in place, that future victims will be forced to suffer the prolonged battle with their government that these first victims were forced to bear. I am pleased with the justice being delivered today; but I am especially pleased by the process in place to help any future victims. Hopefully, with this process, the deterrent capability of this law will become more powerful.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I am pleased have worked with Senators LAUTENBERG, MACK, and KYL in getting this legisla-

tion to this point. The national security interest waiver should be used only when there is a specific national security interest greater than the interest in taking effective action to combat terrorism against American citizens; and it should be exercised on a case-by-case basis. The Judiciary Committee never intended to divide victims, helping some and not others. We must ensure that all American victims of terrorism able to successfully hold foreign states responsible to the satisfaction of U.S. courts are treated fairly and aided by this and future administrations to collect their damages.

Mr. HELMS. I congratulate Senators MACK, KYL, LAUTENBERG, and FEINSTEIN, for their fine work on getting this anti-terrorism legislation through the Congress and passed. I would like to point out the conferees agree with the comments mentioned by my colleagues and this has been so stated in the conference report to accompany this bill.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 11, 1999:

Clifton Aaron, 21, Kansas City, MO; Daniel Bennett, 23, Washington, DC; Larry Clark, 51, Atlanta, GA; Mico Curtis, 28, Atlanta, GA; Thomas Spivey, 22, Nashville, TN; Arthur Strickland, 28, Gary, IN; Kristian Sullivan, 25, Detroit, MI; Lloyd Whitfield, 28, Detroit, MI; and Arshon Young, 19, Miami-Dade County, FL.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

RESTORING THE EVERGLADES, AN AMERICAN LEGACY ACT

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, when the Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA) on September 25th, a landmark piece of legislation was attached to the bill. This legislation—S. 2797, Restoring the Everglades, an American Legacy Act—was introduced by Senators SMITH, BAUCUS, VOINOVICH, GRAHAM and MACK earlier this summer to restore the natural ecosystem of the Florida Everglades.

Historically, the Florida Everglades system consisted of a natural flow of 1.7 billion gallons of fresh water draining into the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean on a daily basis. Beginning in 1948, the system has been adversely impacted by a series of Federal flood control projects authorized by Congress to redirect water flows throughout the Everglades. Over a half-century of Army Corps of Engineers' water infrastructure projects, consisting of a series of levees and canals, have severely damaged the Everglades system. This substantial diversion of water resulting from the infrastructure construction, coupled with increased development in the area, threaten the overall environmental health and sustainability of the Everglades National Park. In 1992 and 1996, Congress directed the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a "Restudy" of the existing system and recommend changes to improve the current state of the Everglades. The results of the restudy and recommendations for restoring the system are incorporated into the "Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan".

S. 2797 implements the Everglades Restoration Plan. The bill was approved by a bi-partisan majority of members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is strongly supported by the Administration and the State of Florida. Restoring the Everglades, an American Legacy Act is a \$7.8 billion dollar package that includes a broad framework for repairing the system's fragile ecosystem. Additionally, the bill creates a new and significant partnership between the Federal Government and the State of Florida. S. 2797 includes cost share provisions establishing a 50:50 Federal to non-Federal cost share requirement and providing that operation and maintenance costs will also be split in half between the Federal and non-Federal sponsors. Most importantly, the bill balances the benefits to the natural system, while providing for water supply and flood protection needs.

I thank the Committee for moving forward with this important legislation. I would particularly like to thank Chairman BOB SMITH for his leadership on restoring the Everglades and for crafting legislation that will ensure the future preservation of this national treasure.

COUNTY PAYMENTS BILL, H.R. 2389

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on Friday the Senate passed H.R. 2389, the "Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 1999." I have paid close attention to the bill because it has significant implications for the State of California. H.R. 2389 is important to my State because it provides substantial and desperately-needed revenue to rural counties to be used for schools, roads, and other beneficial purposes. The bill also, however, creates unprecedented opportunities for